

****ATTENTION****

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WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RESCUE PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Oil and toxic substance spills can cause significant injury and destruction of publicly owned wildlife resources. State and federal resource agencies have certain trustee authorities and responsibilities, on behalf of the public to protect and manage these wildlife resources. Response efforts by governmental agencies and responsible parties to these

incidents have recently become highly visible and receive close scrutiny by the public and environmental organizations. Rapid, efficient and effective responses to oil and toxic substance spills by state and federal agencies and other organizations can help minimize impacts to wildlife.

Recognizing the importance of effective wildlife rescue and rehabilitation capabilities, it was determined that an organized response plan for rescuing and rehabilitating injured wildlife should be developed for the state of Washington. This plan would establish appropriate protocols and guidelines necessary to ensure that effective response efforts are implemented in Washington.



During the 1990 Washington State Legislature Substitute House Bill 2494 was passed. Section 12 of this bill requires the Washington Department of Wildlife to chair a coalition of government agencies and other organizations for the purpose of developing a plan for coordinating the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife injured or endangered by spills of oil or other toxic substances. The Washington Wildlife Rescue Coalition (coalition) was convened by the Department of Wildlife and is comprised of representatives from state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and industry which have responsibilities, expertise or interests in the protection of the wildlife resource. The coalition consists of representatives from the Washington Departments of Wildlife, Ecology, and Community Development-Division of Emergency Management, Washington Conservation Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Emergency Management Association, Clean Sound, Adopt A Beach, a veterinarian, and a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Experiences from prior wildlife rescue and rehabilitation responses have identified four important areas that needed to be addressed to improve the effectiveness of response efforts.

1. Develop a plan for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation that would be endorsed by all major agencies and organizations that are routinely involved in rescue operations.

2. Identify one agency to be responsible for volunteer management.
3. Locate adequate facilities for the rescue and rehabilitation effort.
4. Update and manage a consistent, state of the art, treatment protocol for the cleaning and care of affected wildlife.

The Washington Wildlife Rescue Coalition has addressed these four broad areas and has developed protocols and other provisions to allow for coordinated and effective response efforts.

WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLAN

Valuable information was learned from the massive wildlife rescue effort in the wake of Alaska's Exxon Valdez spill. Because oiled birds and mammals are stabilized physiologically for 18 to 24 hours before they are washed, they may be transported during that time without increased risk for the animal. This fact allowed us to design a plan unlike any that had previously been considered in the state of Washington.

The coalition's Wildlife Rescue Plan (plan) calls for building a permanent rehabilitation center (center) on the Department of Wildlife's South Puget Sound Wildlife Area near Tacoma. This facility would be large enough to rehabilitate 5,000 impacted birds, approximately 2,000 more birds than were treated at the Ocean Shores spill which has been Washington's largest spill to date. The center will also be equipped to handle any affected mammals that are recovered. In the event of a major spill, an approved private wildlife rescue consulting firm may be brought in by a spiller to manage the rehabilitation program.

There are several reasons for choosing the Tacoma site. It is already owned by the Department of Wildlife, and since the pheasant raising installation was closed several years ago, there is now adequate room for such a facility. City water and sewage are available, and three wells are located on the property. The site is ten minutes from Interstate 5 and less than a five-hour drive from anywhere in Western Washington. Many motels and eating establishments are in the vicinity, and the bus route is nearby. Being in Tacoma, the center will be an easy commute for a large number of volunteers as well as veterinarians and licensed rehabilitators.

Self-contained trailers will be located at eight strategic locations to serve as receiving points for shoreline pickup and rapid initial treatment of affected wildlife. The trailer sites are identified in the appendix. Once the birds or mammals have been rehydrated, warmed and boxed at the satellite station, they will be transported to the rehabilitation center in Tacoma. There will be two small heated trailers towed by pickup trucks, running as needed between the satellite stations and the rehabilitation center. Refer to

the appendix for layout diagrams of the center and satellite stations. The current medical protocol as well as the search and collection protocol are being reviewed and adapted for inclusion in the plan.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a critical role in this response plan. The Department of Wildlife will manage the entire volunteer effort.

Training classes will be held in various locations around the state prior to future spills. Training will be performed by staff from the center, Washington Conservation Corps, consulting veterinarians and licensed rehabilitators. All classes will include safety training. All trained volunteers will be registered and a call out list will be maintained on a computer file. A training schedule has been included in the appendix.

A coordinated public information effort will address volunteer needs and deployment, the heart of which will be a constantly updated toll-free number, based at the center. By calling this number, volunteers will learn where and when they are needed. Local wildlife rescue organizations will be pre-trained and able to staff the satellite stations and beach rescue at the spill site. Pre-trained volunteers from outside the spill vicinity may be sent

in if the local organization cannot handle the volume of injured wildlife or cover all the affected beaches. The majority of volunteers should be deployed at the center. Both the Washington Conservation Corps and the Senior Environmental Corps will be actively involved in the volunteer management effort at the center.

Liability insurance for volunteers is a necessary requirement for individuals participating in wildlife rescue or rehabilitation activities. The cost of insurance for volunteers is approximately six cents per person hour worked. This expense will be paid by the Department of Wildlife and will be recovered from the party responsible for the spill.



CAPITAL BUDGET

Estimated Cost

Rehabilitation Center

Engineering	\$100,000
12 Prefab Buildings	1,200,000
Oil/H2O Separator	12,000
Pickup and Van	30,000
Housing/Office	100,000
Refrigeration	150,000
Communication Equip.	25,000
Outdoor Pools	100,000

Subtotal	<u>\$1,792,000</u>
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Satellite Station

8 Trailers (\$18,000/unit)	\$144,000
8 Equipment/Supplies (\$2,500/trailer)	20,000
2 Shuttle Trailers (\$7,500 Each)	15,000

Subtotal	<u>\$179,000</u>
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OPERATION BUDGET (1 year)

Commodities	\$100,000
Contractual (Training, etc.)	50,000
Equipment (Computers, etc.)	40,000
Utilities	10,000

Subtotal	<u>\$200,000</u>
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Salaries and Benefits

Coalition Chair	\$50,000
Rescue Center Manager	40,000
Assistant /6 Person/Months	15,000

Subtotal	<u>\$105,000</u>
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Total	<u>\$ 2,276,000</u>
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FUNDING

Integral to implementation of the rescue plan is the development of a centralized bird cleaning facility and a series of eight satellite stations for bird collection and primary stabilization. Major capital expenditures and operational costs are attendant to such a proposal (Table 1). The coalition labored for some time in an attempt to develop an optimal strategy for funding. The strategy involves the cooperative participation of industry through grants, gifts and donations, and seed money from the legislature for initial start up.

Fortunately, these initial costs will be supplemented by the recent Nestucca settlement. We estimate that it will take approximately \$2 million to fund the building of the central facility and purchase of the satellite stations (Table 1). The Nestucca settlement provided \$360,000 toward that end leaving a balance of \$1.6 million that will be required to purchase and build facilities. We believe a cooperative legislative/industry strategy will be necessary to complete the project. Although we plan an aggressive fund raising program, we believe in order to meet the two year deadline, seed money from the legislature may be needed even before we can begin fund raising.

The operational budget, in addition to one time expenditures, will involve some permanent staff. The Nestucca settlement provides for \$74,000 per year, which will provide for salaries for the permanent staff and a portion of the coalition chair's salary. The following sources were also identified for potential operational monies:

A. Capital Expenses-Buildings, Satellite Stations, etc.

1. Gifts, Grants and Donations

An aggressive fund raising program is envisioned as the vehicle to raise the majority of the up front development and construction funds.

2. Legislature

Some initial seed money could speed the facility development process.

B. Operational Expenses

1. Maritime Commission

A guaranteed portion of the funding generated under this commission could be used for program development and facility maintenance. The coalition views this as the ideal source of secure, long term funding for this rescue plan.

2. Legislature

Some long term operational costs, i.e. facility manager and coalition chairman, might be best accommodated through funding of a permanent FTE, especially during periods when no spills are occurring.

3. Coastal Protection Fund

This fund source was identified in the legislation as a possible source of revenue for the rescue plan. Because of the nature of this fund, the amount of monies are unpredictable and its dollars are usually fully allocated to critical habitat restoration projects.

4. Facility Rental Schedule

The facility rental schedule will be the major source of funding during spills. When a spill occurs the responsible party will pay a daily rental fee to use the rescue facility, supplies and staff. Those corporations which made considerable contributions toward building or maintaining the facilities will be able to use the center at a reduced rental fee. A rental fee table will be established. The monies derived from the rental fees will go into the wildlife rescue fund.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Upon receiving adequate funding, the coalition will solicit input from all concerned parties including the general public. Four advisory committees will be formed to provide access to the coalition for all agencies and organizations that choose to become involved. A coalition member will be assigned to each committee and will serve as their representative on the coalition. The four advisory groups are:

1. Government Agencies

To represent all agencies which are not a member of the coalition.

2. Local Rescue Groups

This committee will be comprised of wildlife rehabilitators that are licensed by the Department of Wildlife.

3. Veterinarians

A committee for licensed veterinarians only. This group will be asked to keep the medical protocol up to date by incorporating the latest, state of the art techniques in wildlife rehabilitation.

4. The General Public

This committee is designed to allow concerned citizens and environmental organizations to have access to the coalition.



SUMMARY

Approximately 300 toxic spills occur every month in Western Washington alone. Few environmental issues are as publicized and cause as much public concern as spills of oil or other toxic substances. The Washington Wildlife Rescue Coalition believes that the adoption of this response plan will enable governmental agencies and other interested parties effectively to conduct wildlife rescue and rehabilitation operations associated with oil and hazardous substance spill incidents in Washington.



The members of the coalition have contributed countless hours of hard work to create this rescue plan. The plan reflects a five-year effort by some of the coalition's members to bring an effective rescue program to the state of Washington. The coalition members are listed with their agencies or organizations in the appendix.

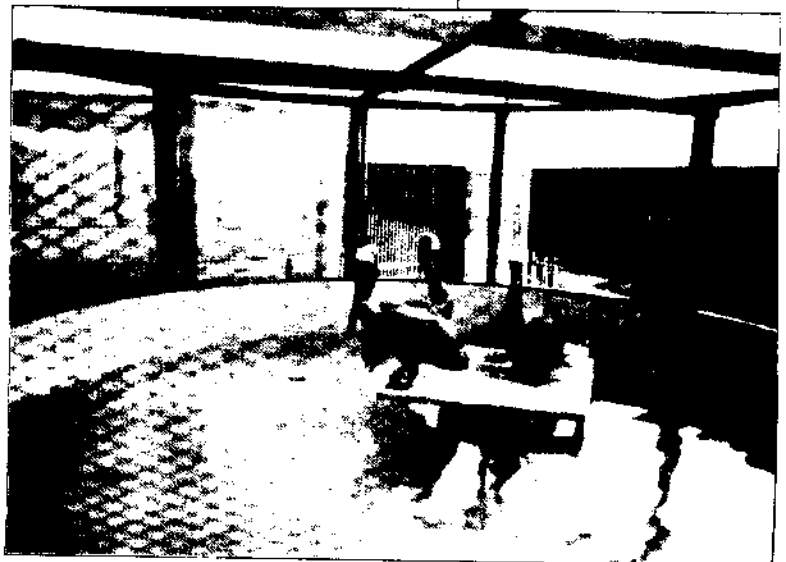
The Wildlife Rescue Plan will be reviewed and modified on a regular basis to incorporate the most effective approaches and newest techniques in wildlife rescue. The goal, with appropriate funding, is to have the plan fully implemented in two years. Hopefully, The center will be operational and the satellite stations in place before the next oil or toxic spill occurs in the state of Washington.

State of Washington
51st Legislature
1990 Regular Session
by Committee on Appropriations

SHB 2494 SECTION 12

- (1) The Washington wildlife rescue coalition shall be established for the purpose of coordinating the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife injured or endangered by oil spills or the release of other hazardous substances into the environment.
- (2) The Washington wildlife rescue coalition shall be composed of:
 - (a) A representative of the department of wildlife designated by the director of wildlife. The department of wildlife shall be designated as lead agency in the operations of the coalition. The coalition shall be chaired by the representative from the department of wildlife;
 - (b) A representative of the department of ecology designated by the director;

- (c) A representative of the department of community development emergency management program designated by the director of community development;
 - (d) A licensed veterinarian, with experience and training in wildlife rehabilitation, appointed by the veterinary board of governors;
 - (e) The director of the Washington conservation corps;
 - (f) A lay person, with training and experience in the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife appointed by the department; and
 - (g) A person designated by the legislative authority of the county where oil spills or spills of other hazardous substances may occur. This member of the coalition shall serve on the coalition until wildlife rescue and rehabilitation is completed in that county. The completion of any rescue or rehabilitation project shall be determined by the director of wildlife.
- (3) The duties of the Washington wildlife rescue coalition shall be to:
- (a) Develop an emergency mobilization plan to rescue and rehabilitate waterfowl and other wildlife that are injured or endangered by an oil spill or the release of other hazardous substances into the environment;
 - (b) Develop and maintain a resource directory of persons, governmental agencies, and private organizations that may provide assistance in an emergency rescue effort;
 - (c) Provide advance training and instruction to volunteers in rescuing and rehabilitating waterfowl and wildlife injured or endangered by oil spills or the release of other hazardous substances into the environment. The training may be provided through grants to community colleges or to groups that conduct programs for training volunteers. The coalition representatives from the agencies described in subsection (2) of this section shall coordinate training efforts with the director of the Washington conservation corps and work to provide training opportunities for young citizens;
 - (d) Obtain and maintain equipment and supplies used in emergency rescue efforts;
 - (e) Report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature on the progress of the coalition's efforts and detail future funding options necessary for the implementation of this section and section 13 of the act. The coalition shall report by January 30, 1991.
- (4)(a) Expenses for the coalition may be provided by the coastal protection fund administered according to RCW 90.48.400.
- (b) The commission is encouraged to seek grants, gifts, or donations from private sources in order to carry out the provision of this section and section 13 of this act. Any private funds donated to the commission shall be deposited into the wildlife rescue account hereby created within the wildlife fund as authorized under Title 77 RCW.



WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RESCUE COALITION MEMBERS

Jeff Skriletz, Chairman

Washington Department of Wildlife

Don Kane

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Dick Logan

Washington Department of Ecology

Linda Bradford

Washington Department of Ecology

Washington Conservation Corps

Dave Rider

Washington Department of Community Development

Division of Emergency Management

John Wiechert / Roland Miller

Clean Sound Cooperative Inc.

Jessica Porter DVM

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Curtis Clumpner

Progressive Animal Welfare Society

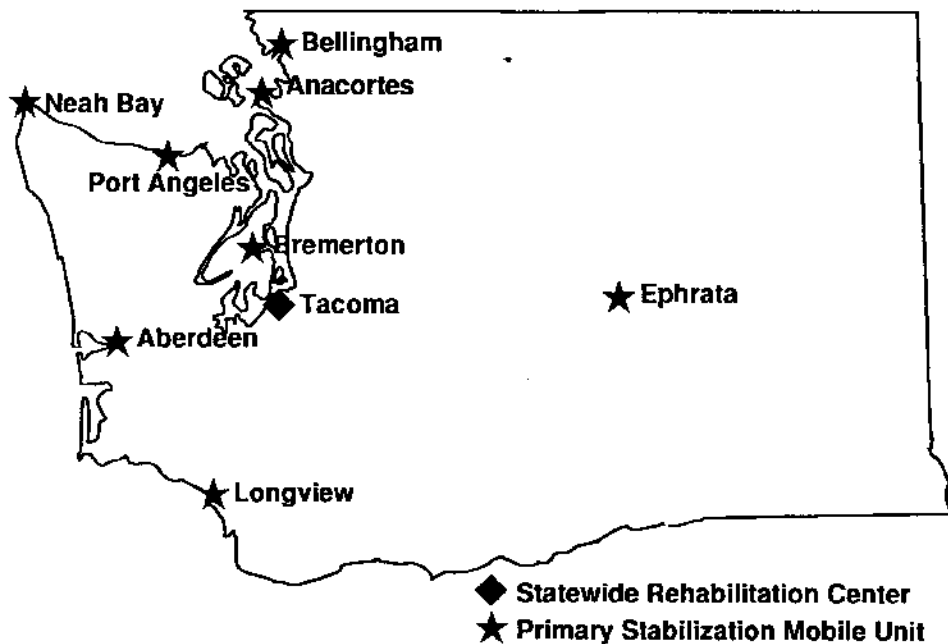
Ken Pritchard

Adopt A Beach

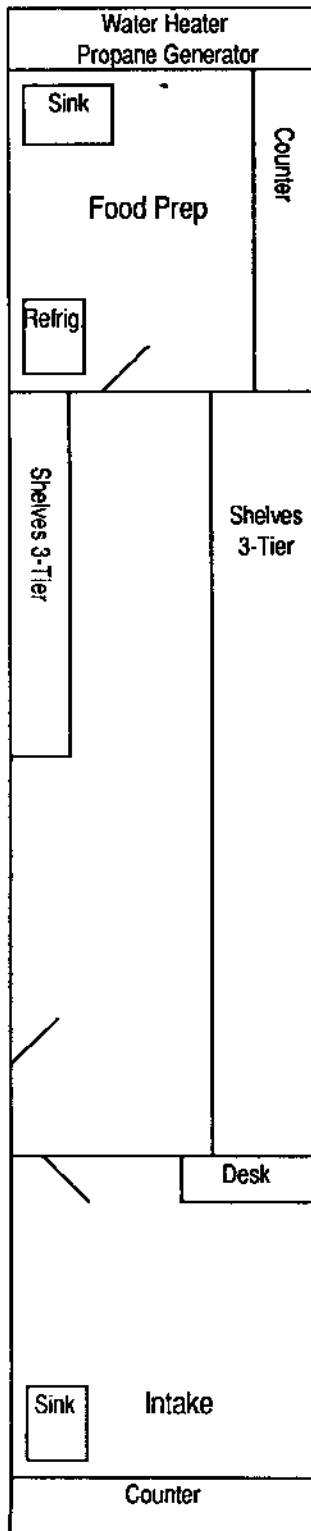
Tom Sheahan

Washington State Emergency Management Association

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RESCUE PLAN



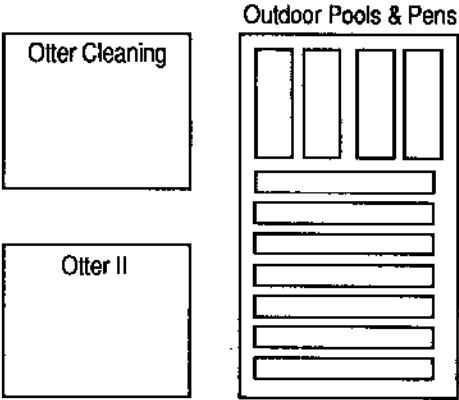
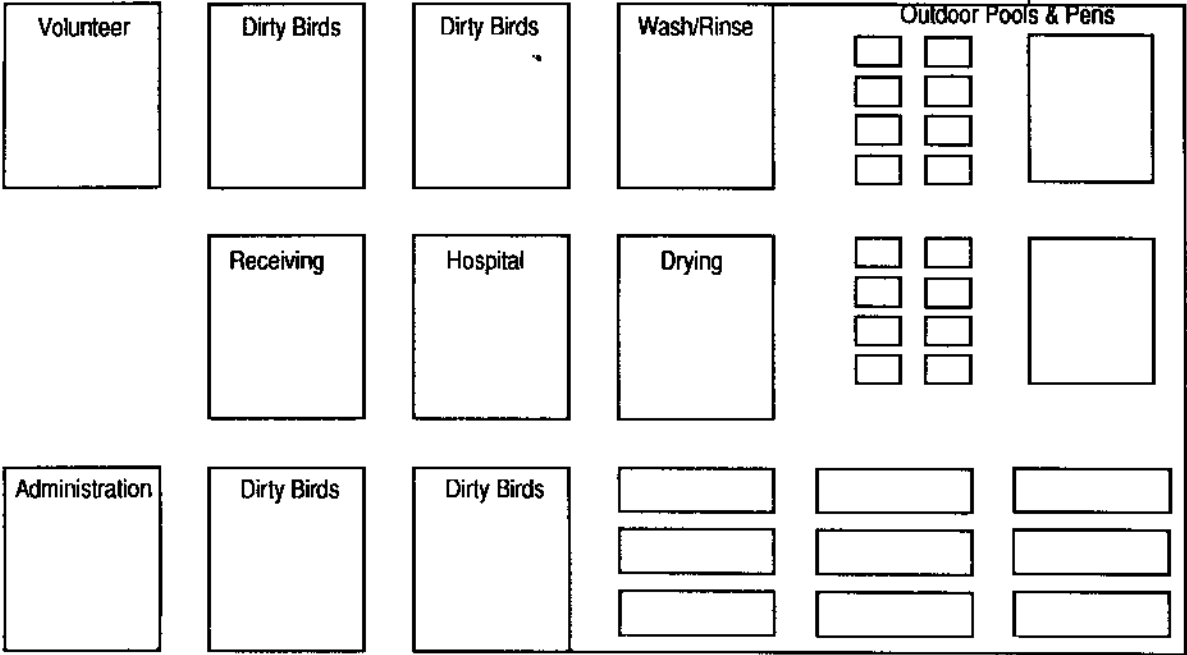
PRIMARY CARE TRAILER 8' X 40'



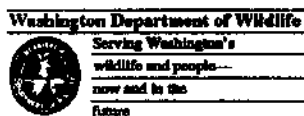
Birds are kept in cardboard pet carriers or airline carriers.

80-100 bird capacity depending on species.

SITE PLAN



WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RESCUE PLAN



The Washington Department of Wildlife will provide equal opportunities to all potential and existing employees without regard to race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or Vietnam Era Veteran's status.

The department receives Federal Aid for fish and wildlife restoration.

The department is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any department program, activity, or facility, or if you want further information about Title VI or Section 504, write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or Washington Department of Wildlife, 600 Capital Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1001.